Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
Water Resources Division
Water Rights Bureau

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
For Routine Actions with Limited Environmental Impact

Part I. Proposed Action Description

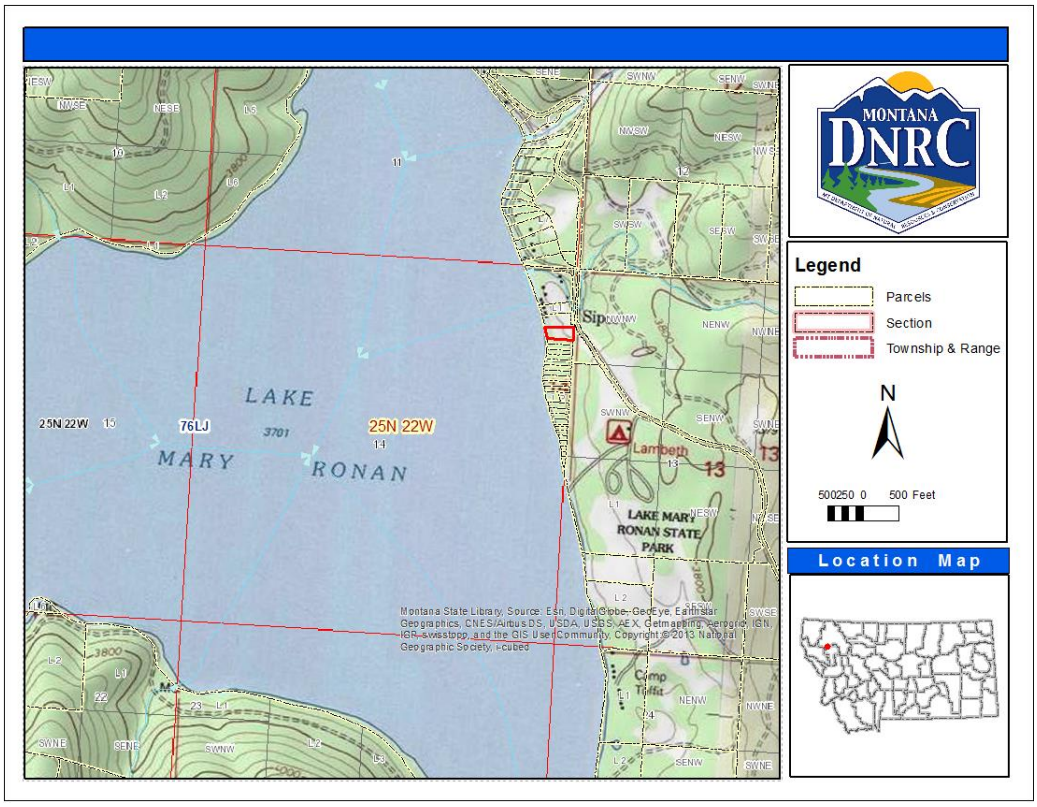
1. Applicant/Contact name and address:

Patrick O. & Patricia D. Lennon
35815 David Powell Road
Fall City, Washington, 98024-8815

2. **Type of action:** Application for Beneficial Water Use Permit 76LJ 30110395

3. **Water source name:** Lake Mary Ronan

4. **Location affected by project:** Lot 4, Mountain Meadows Estates, SENENE of Section 14, Township 25N, Range 22W, Lake County



5. **Narrative summary of the proposed project, purpose, action to be taken, and benefits**:

The applicant proposes to divert water from the surface source of Lake Mary Ronan, by means of a submersible pump, from April 15 through October 15 at 47.4 GPM up to 2.7 AF, from a point in the SENENE of Section 14, Township 25N, Range 22W, Lake County for lawn and garden use on 1.08 acres from April 15 through October 15 annually. The place of use is approximately 3 miles north of the northern boundary of the Flathead Reservation. The DNRC shall issue a water use permit if an applicant proves the criteria in 85-2-311 MCA are met.

6. Agencies consulted during preparation of the Environmental Assessment: (include agencies with overlapping jurisdiction)

Montana Natural Heritage Program
Natural Resources and Conservation Service soil maps
Montana Department of Environmental Quality
United States Fish and Wildlife Wetland Mapper
Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks

Part II. Environmental Review

1. Environmental Impact Checklist:

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

WATER QUANTITY, QUALITY AND DISTRIBUTION

Water quantity *- Assess whether the source of supply is identified as a chronically or periodically dewatered stream by DFWP. Assess whether the proposed use will worsen the already dewatered condition.*

Determination: A dam/dike structure and corrugated metal pipe with a head gate is on private land at the head of Ronan Creek and holds and controls the waters of the reservoir known today as Lake Mary Ronan. The headwaters of Ronan Creek are listed as periodically dewatered by DFWP. Control of the dike and culvert outlet system would be a factor of this.

Water quality *- Assess whether the stream is listed as water quality impaired or threatened by DEQ, and whether the proposed project will affect water quality.*

Determination: Lake Mary Ronan is listed by the DEQ as having aquatic life as being threatened. This impairment seems to be caused by agriculture, grazing in Riparian or shoreline zones and silviculture activities. Lawn and garden irrigation away from the lake would not likely increase impairment of the source.

Groundwater *- Assess if the proposed project impacts ground water quality or supply. If this is a groundwater appropriation, assess if it could impact adjacent surface water flows.*

Determination: N/A

DIVERSION WORKS - *Assess whether the means of diversion, construction and operation of the appropriation works of the proposed project will impact any of the following: channel impacts, flow modifications, barriers, riparian areas, dams, well construction.*

Determination: The Applicant proposes to pump surface water from Lake Mary Ronan at 47.4 GPM via a Franklin Electric 5 HP, 3 phase pump that is installed within a 6-inch PVC pipe, which will terminate at a foot valve. The 6-inch PVC pipe and power supply line will run up to the high-water mark and then go underground to a 20-gallon pressure tank which sends water to the first distribution valve box. From here, the system will distribute water to the individual sprinkler heads in each zone. Nine zones will irrigate 1.08 acres; only one zone will operate at one time. Each zone has one line and multiple I-25, MP Rotator or PGP Ultra/I-20 PRB Hunter sprinklers. Zone one is the largest irrigation zone and will use approximately 47.4 GPM. Pump specifications were included in the application. Based on the total dynamic head (225 feet) and pump curve associated with the pump; the system can produce and distribute the requested flow rate of 47.4 GPM and volume for lawn/garden irrigation.

UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

Endangered and threatened species - *Assess whether the proposed project will impact any threatened or endangered fish, wildlife, plants or aquatic species or any "species of special concern," or create a barrier to the migration or movement of fish or wildlife. For groundwater, assess whether the proposed project, including impacts on adjacent surface flows, would impact any threatened or endangered species or "species of special concern."*

Determination: The Montana Natural Heritage Program was contacted to determine if there are any threatened or endangered fish, wildlife, plants or aquatic species or any "species of special concern", that could be impacted by the proposed project. They identified the following animal and plant species that are threatened, or have special status, that are located regionally: Wolverine, Hoary Bat, Fisher, Northern Goshawk, Great Blue Heron, Westslope Cutthroat Trout, A Mayfly, A Millipede and Greenlead Manzanita. These species are found throughout this region and not necessarily at this spot. No immediate impact.

Wetlands - *Consult and assess whether the apparent wetland is a functional wetland (according to COE definitions), and whether the wetland resource would be impacted.*

Determination: The property is not located within a designated wetland boundary.

Ponds - *For ponds, consult and assess whether existing wildlife, waterfowl, or fisheries resources would be impacted.*

Determination: N/A

GEOLOGY/SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE - *Assess whether there will be degradation of soil quality, alteration of soil stability, or moisture content. Assess whether the soils are heavy in salts that could cause saline seep.*

Determination: Kingspoint gravelly loam with 4 to 15 percent slopes and moderate water transmissivity comprise the majority of soil make-up for this place of use. The soil has been given a nonsaline designation.

VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY/NOXIOUS WEEDS - *Assess impacts to existing vegetative cover. Assess whether the proposed project would result in the establishment or spread of noxious weeds.*

Determination: Private property and the property owner is responsible for spread of noxious weeds.

AIR QUALITY - *Assess whether there will be a deterioration of air quality or adverse effects on vegetation due to increased air pollutants.*

Determination: No impacts are anticipated.

HISTORICAL AND ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES - *Assess whether there will be degradation of unique archeological or historical sites in the vicinity of the proposed project if it is on State or Federal Lands*

Determination: N/A – project not located on State or Federal Lands.

DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AND ENERGY - *Assess any other impacts on environmental resources of land, water and energy not already addressed.*

Determination: No other impacts were identified during this EA.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS - *Assess whether the proposed project is inconsistent with any locally adopted environmental plans and goals.*

Determination: No inconsistency noted.

ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES - *Assess whether the proposed project will impact access to or the quality of recreational and wilderness activities.*

Determination: No impact expected.

HUMAN HEALTH - *Assess whether the proposed project impacts on human health.*

Determination: No impact expected.

PRIVATE PROPERTY - *Assess whether there are any government regulatory impacts on private property rights.*
*Yes___ No**XX** If yes, analyze any alternatives considered that could reduce, minimize, or eliminate the regulation of private property rights.*

Determination: No impact.

OTHER HUMAN ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES - *For routine actions of limited environmental impact, the following may be addressed in a checklist fashion.*

Impacts on:

(a) *Cultural uniqueness and diversity?* None identified.

(b) *Local and state tax base and tax revenues?* None

(c) *Existing land uses?* None

(d) *Quantity and distribution of employment?* None

(e) *Distribution and density of population and housing?* None

(f) *Demands for government services?* None

(g) *Industrial and commercial activity?* None

(h) *Utilities?* None

(i) *Transportation?* None

(j) *Safety?* None

(k) *Other appropriate social and economic circumstances?* None

2. ***Secondary and cumulative impacts on the physical environment and human population:***

Secondary Impacts None identified.

Cumulative Impacts None identified.

3. ***Describe any mitigation/stipulation measures:*** None identified

4. ***Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives to the proposed action, including the no action alternative, if an alternative is reasonably available and prudent to consider:*** No reasonable alternatives identified.

PART III. Conclusion

1. Preferred Alternative

Project should be completed as described in application.

2 Comments and Responses

3. *Finding:*

*Yes___ No**XXX** Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required?*

If an EIS is not required, explain <u>why</u> the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action:

Name of person(s) responsible for preparation of EA:

Name: Melissa Brickl
Title: Hydrologist
Date: June 2, 2017